

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending, subject to the withdrawal of Claims 8-21.

A restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121 is required between two groups of claims. Group I contains claims 1-7 which are drawn to a process for catalyst regeneration, while Group II contains claims 8-21 which are drawn to a hydrocarbon conversion process. In an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicant affirms the provisional election of claims 1-7. Applicant accordingly cancels claims 8-21, but reserves the right to file divisional or continuation applications based on claims 8-21.

Claim 5 is objected to because the word "of" is missing between the words "contacting" and "the". This change has been made and so this objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,183,789 (Boyle) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,883,031 (Innes) on the ground that it would have been obvious to use a catalyst with zeolite L disclosed in Innes in the process disclosed in Boyle and thereby arrive at Applicant's invention. This rejection should be withdrawn because Innes and Boyle, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest that any of the catalysts disclosed in Innes could be used in the process disclosed in Boyle.

Claim 1 claims a process for regenerating a hydrocarbon conversion catalyst comprising zeolite L, where the process comprises contacting the catalyst with ozone.

Boyle describes a process for regenerating reforming catalysts with ozone. While the catalysts for Boyle's process may have a support containing a zeolite, they must contain halogen. "The catalyst employed in accordance with this invention is necessarily constituted of composite particles which contain ... a halide component ..." Col. 4, lines 39-44. The required halogen can be introduced into the catalyst "by any method at any time", including during catalyst preparation, during reforming operations, and during regeneration. Col. 5, lines 31-50, and col. 7, lines 37-40.

In contrast, Innes describes a process for regenerating reforming catalysts with oxygen, not ozone. Also, Innes does not teach or suggest that any of the catalysts it describes contain halogen. Col. 1, lines 20-22; col. 4, line 64 to col. 7, line 50; col. 11, lines 29-31; col. 17, lines 21-24; and col. 19, line 8. The typical composition of zeolite L does not contain halogen. Col. 5, line 65 to col. 6, line 12. While Innes teaches impregnating platinum on zeolites using aqueous solutions of tetrammineplatinum(II) nitrate, tetrammineplatinum(II) chloride or diammineplatinum, there is no teaching or suggestion that any residual halogen remains at the end of catalyst preparation. Col. 7, lines 27-31. Indeed, Innes teaches away from

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using halogen on catalyst, since one of Innes's primary objectives is to regenerate catalyst halogen-free. Col. 4, lines 19-29; col. 9, lines 20-26; col. 16, lines 24-28; col. 19, lines 5-8. See also the abstract and claims 1(a), 2(a), 3(a), and 21(a).

Boyle in combination with Innes does not teach or suggest a regeneration process comprising contacting catalyst containing zeolite L with ozone because, on reading both Boyle and Innes, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to use a process that Boyle teaches must be used on halogen-containing catalysts to regenerate catalysts that Innes clearly teaches are regenerated halogen-free. In addition, Innes does not teach or suggest regenerating any catalysts using Boyle's process. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Boyle in view of Innes should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the subject application is now believed to be in a condition for an allowance of all claims and such action is respectfully requested.

This is intended to be a complete response to the Office action. If any matter remains which can be easily addressed, the Examiner is invited to call to resolve the issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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